AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a specification of a method in a container-managed persistence bean and a procedure in a backend data store;

generating code in a helper class associated with the container-managed persistence bean, wherein the helper class determines a connector based on a connection factory type;

~~determining a connector based on a connection factory type;~~

accessing the procedure via a backend-specific protocol and the connector, wherein the code in the helper class performs the accessing, and wherein the code in the helper class calls an evaluator class and passes results of the procedure, wherein the evaluator class evaluates the results;

receiving a specification of input and output records for the procedure; and

mapping the input and output records between the method in the container-managed persistence bean and the procedure, wherein the output records comprise the results, and wherein a state of the container-managed persistence bean persists beyond a lifetime of an application that uses the container-managed persistence bean.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the backend data store comprises a relational database.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1~~claim 2~~, wherein the backend data store comprises a non-relational database.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a specification of a method in a container-managed persistence bean and a procedure in a backend data store, wherein a state of the container-managed persistence bean persists beyond a lifetime of an application that uses the container-managed persistence bean;

means for generating code in a helper class associated with the container-managed persistence bean, wherein the helper class determines a connector based on a connection factory type;

~~means for determining a connector based on a connection factory type;~~

means for accessing the procedure via a backend-specific protocol and the connector, wherein the code in the helper class performs the means for accessing, and wherein the code in the helper class calls an evaluator class and passes results of the procedure, wherein the evaluator class evaluates the results;

means for receiving a specification of input and output records for the procedure; and

means for mapping the input and output records between the method in the container-managed persistence bean and the procedure, wherein the output records comprise the results.

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the backend data store comprises a relational database.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the backend data store comprises a non-relational database.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A storage medium encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed comprise:

receiving a specification of a method in a container-managed persistence bean and a procedure in a backend data store, wherein a state of the container-managed persistence bean persists beyond a lifetime of an application that uses the container-managed persistence bean;

generating code in a helper class associated with the container-managed persistence bean, wherein the helper class determines a connector based on a connection factory type;

~~determining a connector based on a connection factory type;~~

accessing the procedure via a backend-specific protocol and the connector, wherein the code in the helper class performs the accessing, and wherein the code in the helper class calls an evaluator class and passes results of the procedure, wherein the evaluator class evaluates the results;

receiving a specification of input and output records for the procedure; and

mapping the input and output records between the method in the container-managed persistence bean and the procedure, wherein the output records comprise the results.

12. (Previously presented) The storage medium of claim 11, wherein the backend data store comprises a non-relational database.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The storage medium of claim 11, wherein the backend data store comprises a relational database.

16. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed on the processor comprise:

receiving a specification of a method in a container-managed persistence bean and a procedure in a backend data store, wherein a state of the container-managed persistence bean persists beyond a lifetime of an application that uses the container-managed persistence bean,

generating code in a helper class associated with the container-managed persistence bean, wherein the helper class determines a connector based on a connection factory type,

~~determining a connector based on a connection factory type,~~

accessing the procedure via a backend-specific protocol and the connector, wherein the code in the helper class performs the accessing, and wherein the code in the helper class calls an evaluator class and passes results of the procedure, wherein the evaluator class evaluates the results,

receiving a specification of input and output records for the procedure, and

mapping the input and output records between the method in the container-managed persistence bean and the procedure, wherein the output records comprise the results.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The computer system of claim 16, wherein the backend data store comprises a relational database.

20. (Original) The computer system of claim 16, wherein the backend data store comprises a non-relational database.